

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are now pending in the application.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Applicants respectfully request consideration and withdrawal or modification of the initial restriction requirement because the Applicants submit that the Examiner has not established a prima facie showing that the claimed inventions are independent and/or that there is a serious burden on the Examiner. The Examiner can only show the claimed inventions are independent by providing an appropriate explanation of separate classification, separate status in the art, or a different field of search as defined in MPEP § 808.02. Such a showing has not been made by simply indicating that various groups of claims can be found in different classifications.

PETITION DIRECTOR

If the restriction requirement is maintained and made final, the Applicant preserves the right to petition the Director to review the requirement now or may defer the petition until after final action or allowance of claims to the invention elected (37 C.F.R. § 1.144).

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration or modification of the requirement of species election.

ELECTION WITH TRAVERSE

With traverse, however, the Applicant elects, for initial Examination the claims of Group II (Claims 13-21). Though the Application reserves the right to file any unelected claims in later filed divisional patent applications.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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